

The Scoop

CMBA Member Q&A



Zach Adams

Firm: **Tucker Ellis LLP**
 Title: **Associate**
 CMBA Join Date: **2015**
 Undergrad: **Miami University**
 Law School: **University of Notre Dame**

FAVORITE CLEVELAND HOT SPOT

Velvet Tango Room. If you haven't tried the Tango Manhattan or the French 75, then you're missing out.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE BOOK?

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

WHAT'S ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

Aside from the normal ones like travel and (hopefully) getting married, I'd love to try and do 10 minutes of stand-up comedy at some point. Being a lawyer gives you a surprising amount of good material to work with.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A LAW STUDENT?

Set goals, work hard, and stay humble. In our field, there can be a lot of chest-puffing and self-aggrandizing, but you can accomplish very serious things without taking yourself too seriously.

TELL US WHY YOU LOVE CLE.

Cleveland has three major sports teams, an amazing array of restaurants and bars, and a world-class group of cultural institutions. On top of all of this, and despite Cleveland going through a renaissance, it still has that collective grit and underdog spirit that is unmistakably Cleveland-esque. I mean, what's not to love?

Justin J. Roberts

Firm: **Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP**
 Title: **Partner**
 CMBA Join Date: **2014**
 College: **University of Texas**
 Law School: **University of Texas**

FAVORITE CLEVELAND HOT SPOT

Progressive Field has been my favorite Cleveland spot since I moved here in 2004. The Cleveland Museum of Art is a close second. It is amazing to have such easy access to Major League baseball (or world class art). It is a great place to unplug for a few hours and connect with people from all over the area. The recent success and the new food/beer selections make it even better.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR PET.

We have a black lab named Ranger. He is almost 4-years-old and weighs nearly 100 lbs. We got him from a breeder in Ostrander, Ohio. Everyone who meets him calls him a "gentle giant." Taking him for a walk at the end of a long day is a great way to unwind.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST JOB?

I was a night doorman in a Manhattan apartment building. The shift was from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. I read books and watched a 4-inch portable black and white TV to pass the time. New York is definitely a city that doesn't sleep, but it could get very quiet for a few hours each shift.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.

My wife, Peggy, is a Managing Partner at the Riverside Company, a private equity firm here in town. My 12-year old daughter, Molly, stays busy with basketball, violin and soccer. My 10-year old son, Ethan, is an avid golfer, baseball player and defenseman in hockey. We keep on the move, but I try to make a point of us all sitting down for dinner together on Sundays.



Denise Nancy Rini

Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court
 Title: **Judge**
 CMBA Join Date: **2003**
 College: **Baldwin Wallace College**
 Law School: **Cleveland Marshall College of Law**

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

The best part of my day is working with teenagers. I find their perspective to be egocentric and therefore, quite fascinating. Most are very respectful, regardless of the reason the youth is in my courtroom. Juvenile Court hears delinquencies, abuse, neglect, dependencies, private custody, child support and traffic cases. Instead of terminating parental rights, I love reunifying children with parents once the parent has completed services.

A RECENT MILESTONE?

For the new season of Will & Grace, my daughter obtained a position with Eric McCormack and is on the set with the entire crew. Over the Thanksgiving holiday, we took pictures on the set and had Thanksgiving dinner at his home. I am thrilled for my daughter because she is very happy.

FAVORITE CLEVELAND HOT SPOT

Etna and/or Valerio's Restaurant. Since the owners are brothers-in-law, I love both, not only for the incredible food, but the atmosphere is congenial and any person may have a conversation with a doctor, psychologist, attorney or even a judge. It is truly a great neighborhood atmosphere!

WHEN HAVE YOU SEEN THE CMBA MISSION AT WORK?

The 3Rs Program has been implemented in the Detention Center and the teacher, Ms. Melissa Smith, is amazing. The schedule is every other week, though due to issues, the group usually meets every three weeks. I am assigned to the 17-18 year old youths, who are intelligent, inquisitive and quite humorous. The lesson begins with four smaller groups, and the youths read aloud, after the question and answer session, a round of Jeopardy is played. The youths love to shout out the answers, even when it is not their turn.

WHY DID YOU BECOME A LAWYER?

I attended law school at the age of 40 to specifically practice Juvenile Law. In 2003, I became a Guardian ad Litem and focused on family and juvenile law. When my daughter was in college, I worked one full-time and two part-time jobs, an advertising director, bartender, and private investigator. After Mik graduated college in 1997, I began my Masters Degree in Psychology before applying to the Cleveland-Marshall Law in 1999. While in law school, I resigned my position as the advertising director and worked as a private investigator and substitute teacher.